

IN THE UNITED STATES DISTRICT COURT
FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WISCONSIN

PEDRO A. MUÑOZ-ESTRADA,

Plaintiff,

ORDER

v.

Case No. 14-cv-791-wmc

EDWARD F. WALL, et al.

Defendants.

Plaintiff Pedro A. Muñoz-Estrada has submitted a certified inmate trust fund account statement for the six month period preceding his complaint. Accordingly, the court must determine whether plaintiff qualifies for indigent status and, if so, calculate an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case.

In determining whether a prisoner litigant qualifies for indigent status this court applies the formula set forth in 28 U.S.C. § 1915(b)(1). According to this formula, a prisoner litigant must prepay 20% of the greater of the average monthly balance or the average monthly deposits made to the prisoner's account in the six-month period immediately preceding the filing of the complaint.

In this case, 20% of the average monthly balance is \$10.60, and 20% of the average monthly deposits made to plaintiff's account is \$6.19. Because the greater of the two amounts is 20% of the average monthly balance, or \$10.60, that is the amount plaintiff will be assessed as an initial partial payment of the filing fee. For this case to proceed, plaintiff must submit this amount on or before January 5, 2015.

If plaintiff does not have the money to make the initial partial payment from plaintiff's regular account, plaintiff will have to arrange with prison authorities to pay some

or all of the assessment from plaintiff's release account. This does not mean that plaintiff is free to ask prison authorities to pay *all* of the filing fee from plaintiff's release account. The only amount plaintiff must pay at this time is the \$10.60 initial partial payment. Before prison officials take any portion of that amount from plaintiff's release account, they may first take from plaintiff's regular account whatever amount up to the full amount plaintiff owes. Plaintiff should show a copy of this order to prison officials to insure that they are aware they should send plaintiff's initial partial payment to this court.

In addition, plaintiff has requested court assistance in recruiting counsel. Until the court has screened the complaint, a motion requesting the assistance of volunteer counsel is premature. Plaintiff may renew his request after this case has been screened required by the Prison Litigation Reform Act, 28 U.S.C. § 1915A.

ORDER

IT IS ORDERED that,

1. Plaintiff Pedro A. Munoz-Estrada is assessed \$10.60 as an initial partial payment of the \$350.00 fee for filing this case. Plaintiff is to submit a check or money order made payable to the clerk of court in the amount of \$10.60 or advise the court in writing why plaintiff is not able to submit the assessed amount on or before January 5, 2015.
2. If, by January 5, 2015, plaintiff fails to make the initial partial payment or show cause for failure to do so, plaintiff will be held to have withdrawn this action voluntarily and the case will be closed without prejudice to plaintiff's filing his case at a later date.

3. Plaintiff's motion for assistance in the recruitment of counsel (Dkt. #5) is DENIED without prejudice.

4. No further action will be taken in this case until the clerk's office receives plaintiff's initial partial filing fee as directed above and the court has screened the complaint as required by the PLRA, 28 U.S.C. § 1915A. Once the screening process is complete, a separate order will issue.

Entered this 15th day of December, 2014.

BY THE COURT:

/s/
PETER OPPENEER
Magistrate Judge